# Princess Anne Middle School

**2012-2013 Class Expectations**

**6th Grade Science**

**James F. Scheuer**

[**jascheue@vbschools.com**](mailto:jascheue@vbschools.com) **or** [**james.scheuer@vbschools.com**](mailto:james.scheuer@vbschools.com)

[**http://pams-hamby.wikispaces.com/home**](http://pams-hamby.wikispaces.com/home)

**648-4950**

**Assignment Information**: To register to receive assignments via email:

1. Go to <http://www.princessannems.vbschools.com>.
2. Click on the MySchool MAIL button (on the **LEFT** hand side of the website).
3. Subscribe to the Tropics Core.

**Course Description and Objectives:** Core and Advanced 6th grade science is an activity-based course in which the students participate in hands on activities. Experimental design and real world applications will be used to teach about the natural and technological world. Students will use inquiry skills and problem solving strategies to develop an understanding of science and technology. The course objectives correlate with the Virginia Standards of Learning.

**Course Scope and Sequence:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Core 6th Science**  \*Investigative Process Skills  \*Matter  \*Chemistry  \*Space  \*Weather  \*Energy  \*Virginia Watershed  **Text:** Science Explorer: Grade 6 by Prentice Hall | **Advanced 6th Science**  \*Investigative Process Skills  \*Matter  \*Chemistry  \*Space  \*Energy  \*Light  \*Sound  \* Heat  \*Electricity and Magnetism  \*Force and Motion  **Text:** Science Explorer: Physical Science by Prentice Hall |

**Materials:** It is each student’s responsibility to come to class prepared each day with their binder, pencils, highlighters, and agenda. Students will need four 2 pocket folders with brads for their portfolios. Students are expected to check to see what additional materials may be needed each day. These items can include, but are not limited to: textbooks, workbooks, jump drives, and coloring supplies.

**Grading Procedures and Policies: 6th Grade Standard Based Grading**

*Rationale:* Grades are NOT compensation. Grades are communication. They are an accurate report of what happened, a measurement of how far the student has mastered their skills. A standards based grading system does not factor in where a student begins in their learning; rather it evaluates a student’s progress throughout the unit offering multiple opportunities to obtain mastery.

*Procedure:* We are basing students’ grades on standards for Grade 6 Advanced and Core Science. Final grades are first and foremost determined by our professional opinion of your child’s work against those standards, not by mathematical calculations. We have been trained in analyzing student products against standards and finding evidence of that learning using a variety of methods. A student’s final grade will be determined at the end of each quarter by converting from the 4-point scale to the VBCPS Board approved grading scale. Please be sure to sign up for **Parental Portal**, if you haven’t already done so, to view your child’s progress towards mastery.

*Assessment Measures:* Students will be evaluated using formative and summative assessments; which may include, but are not limited to, tests, quizzes, classwork, labs, and performance tasks.

*Homework:* Homework will be assigned on an as needed basis for assessment review, project research, completion of classwork if more time is needed, and extra practice. Because standard based grading evaluates mastery of your child’s learning, homework will no longer be counted as a part of their overall progress for a grade. It does continue; however, to be an integral part of their role in their education, something for them to take ownership of. While homework will no longer be a part of your child’s letter grade, it will be assessed through a report card addendum using the standards based grading scale. (Please see below)

*Graded Assignments:* Graded assignments will be posted at least once a week to Parent Portal, unless the assignment was a large project, which may take longer to evaluate thoroughly.

*Student-led Conferences:* Conferences will take place at the end of each quarter at which time your child will share their learning portfolios with you and answer any questions you may about their progression.

**Grading Procedures and Policies:**

4 = A Advanced Proficient – consistently demonstrates proficiency; grasps, applies, and extends key concepts, processes and skills.

3 = B Proficient – regularly grasps and applies key concepts, processes, and skills with limited errors.

2 = C Developing Proficiency – beginning to grasp and apply key concepts, processes, and skills

1 = D Novice – needs improvement; not making expected progress toward proficiency

0 = E No progress is evaluated.

\*Formative evaluations will take place multiple times during each class period and will not count as graded material but will serve as communication. There are too many various methods to list them all but to name a few: critical question/answer session with peers, experiments, projects, quizzes, exit tickets, etc… This will allow both the teacher and the student to determine where they are on the grading spectrum as the summative assessment draws near.

\*A summative evaluation will be given after every mini unit (typically three class sessions), to assess what has been covered during that time. These assessments will include multiple-choice, true and false, fill in the blank, as well as critical thinking application questions.

\*Students will receive at least one laboratory grade during the three-day increments, and often a cooperative group activity for additional application/understanding.

\*If a student is absent, one day will be allowed for make-up work for each day missed.

\*A safety contract is required to be signed by both parents and students in order to be able to participate in any type of lab activities. Students **must** wear goggles for most labs and these will be supplied in science class.

**Help Sessions:** I will be available for extra help by appointment only. Students must have a signature in their agenda from me, which will allow them to get into the building early in the morning. Homework centers are available in both AM and PM in the cafeteria. Please see the school’s website for more information on those sessions.

**Home/School Communication:**

Keeping the communication lines open between the parents and the teachers is vital to a student’s success. Below are ways I will be communicating with you:

* **Conferences** -. If you feel a conference is necessary, then contact the **guidance department**. Conferences will be from 8:30-8:55 in the guidance office. I encourage you to email me if you have any questions/concerns, since I have found that it is the easiest method of communication between teacher and parent.
* **Agenda/Planner** – The school will provide each student with a planner (agenda). The planner must be used every day to record homework, upcoming tests, etc. The planner is also used as the student’s hall pass. Please check your child’s planner often to keep up with classroom information. Occasionally, there may be a message from the teacher written in it and parents can write messages to the teacher as well. If the planner is lost or damaged, it must be replaced at the student’s cost of $8.
* **Parent Portal** – is available for all parents through the website. This allows you to review your child’s grades. Grades will be updated in a reasonable amount of time after an assignment is given.

**Citizenship, Participation and Collaboration, and Productivity:**

As part of the push to incorporate 21st Century skills in education, your student will still be held responsible for their work habits, their ability to work cooperatively, and the effort and pride they place in final products through the standards based scale reported on both progress report and report card addendums.

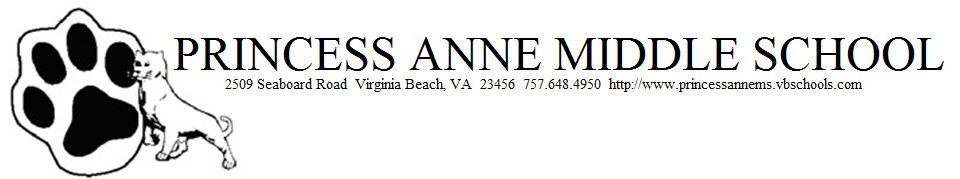
**Citizenship Expectations:**

Students will:

* Bring necessary supplies to class each day
* Work cooperatively in large and small groups
* Use proper behavior by following the school and class rules
* Go directly to homeroom from their bus in the morning
* Let the teacher know where they are going at all times
* Use the agenda/planner correctly

Students experiencing difficulty meeting behavioral expectations will be disciplined according to the VBCPS Code of Conduct.

AN EXAMPLE of:



**6th GRADE SCIENCE STANDARDS BASED GRADING**

**PROGRESS REPORT ADDENDUM**

**STUDENT:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MARKING PERIOD** | **1ST** | **2ND** | **3RD** | **4TH** |
| **CITIZENSHIP** |  |  |  |  |
| Listens and follows rules, procedures, and directions |  |  |  |  |
| Exhibits self-control and resolves conflicts effectively |  |  |  |  |
| Is a respectful contributing citizen in the school community |  |  |  |  |
| **PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION** |  |  |  |  |
| Works effectively within a group, including leadership roles |  |  |  |  |
| Actively participates and offers ideas |  |  |  |  |
| Encourages others to participate by listening and building off the ideas of others |  |  |  |  |
| **PRODUCTIVITY** |  |  |  |  |
| Identifies, pursues, and reflects on goals |  |  |  |  |
| Creates work of the highest quality |  |  |  |  |
| Completes and turns in work on time |  |  |  |  |
| Perseveres even when work is difficult |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**STANDARDS GRADING KEY:**

**N Novice- Needs Improvement; not making expected progress toward proficiency**

**DP Developing Proficiency – Beginning to grasp and apply key concepts, processes, and skills**

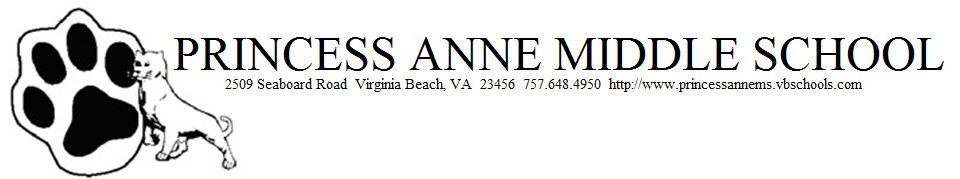
**P Proficient - Regularly grasps and applies key concepts, processes, and skills with limited errors**

**AP Advanced Proficient – Consistently demonstrates proficiency; grasps, applies, and extends key concepts, processes and skills**

**Parent Signature:**

1st: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2nd: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4th: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AN EXAMPLE OF**

**6th GRADE SCIENCE STANDARDS BASED GRADING**

**REPORT CARD ADDENDUM**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MARKING PERIOD** | **1ST** | **2ND** | **3RD** | **4TH** | **FINAL** |
| **CITIZENSHIP** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Listens and follows rules, procedures, and directions |  |  |  |  |  |
| Exhibits self-control and resolves conflicts effectively |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is a respectful contributing citizen in the school community |  |  |  |  |  |
| **PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Works effectively within a group, including leadership roles |  |  |  |  |  |
| Actively participates and offers ideas |  |  |  |  |  |
| Encourages others to participate by listening and building off the ideas of others |  |  |  |  |  |
| **PRODUCTIVITY** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Identifies, pursues, and reflects on goals |  |  |  |  |  |
| Creates work of the highest quality |  |  |  |  |  |
| Completes and turns in work on time |  |  |  |  |  |
| Perseveres even when work is difficult |  |  |  |  |  |
| **COMMENTS** |  |  |  |  |  |

**STUDENT:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**STANDARDS GRADING KEY:**

**N Novice- Needs Improvement; not making expected progress toward proficiency**

**DP Developing Proficiency – Beginning to grasp and apply key concepts, processes, and skills**

**P Proficient - Regularly grasps and applies key concepts, processes, and skills with limited errors**

**AP Advanced Proficient – Consistently demonstrates proficiency; grasps, applies, and extends key concepts, processes and skills**

**Parent Signature:**

1st: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2nd: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4th: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***After reviewing these expectations with your child, please sign and return this page ONLY to your child’s teacher’s email address.***

***My child and I/we have reviewed and understand the 2012-2013 Course Expectations. We understand that if parents/guardians, students, and teachers work together, it will be a successful year.***

***Student’s Electronic Signature: Block:***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Parent’s/Guardian’s Electronic Signature: E-mail address:***

***Daytime Phone Number: Evening Phone Number:***

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**